



# SADA Newsletter

## August 2017

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### Ken Lyons recognised for a life of achievement

The President and Board of SADA are delighted at the presentation to Ken Lyons of the Brenton Higgins Award for his unwavering dedication to the dairy industry in South Australia.

Ken Lyons commenced work at the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association in September 2000 after an extensive career in agriculture starting as a lecturer at Glenormiston Agricultural College in 1970. In 1975 he took on the role as Vice Principal at Longerenong Agricultural College. This was followed by Managerial roles for the Australian Wheat Board in both South Australia and Victoria. He then took on the position of General Manager for the South Australian Fishing Industry Council before starting at SADA. So he came to SADA with a wealth of Agricultural knowledge and a very lengthy list of important contacts both within government and industry. These contacts became one of Ken's



*Photo courtesy of the Stock Journal*

greatest strengths as it allowed him to open many doors for dairy that previously hadn't been as easily accessible. His ability to influence politicians to support the SA dairy industry and create relationships was a great contribution to SADA. He spent many years building both understanding and teamwork between the separate state agencies.

One of his great passions in life is golf and he was employed with a very loose clause written into his contract that he could play golf on a regular basis. He didn't do this too often but usually explained his absence from the office as a great networking opportunity!

Ken was thrown head first into deregulation of the dairy industry and all the challenges it presented including the Dairy Separation Adjustment payment. Ken went with a delegation to lobby Agriculture minister Warren Truss to have most of SA dairy farmers

receiving an extra \$15000 to assist dairy farmers most affected by price movements after deregulation. The payments meant dairy farms that had a market milk dependency of above 30.1pc received a minimum of \$15,000 which covered the areas that had previously been supplying milk into the Adelaide region. This was his first significant win in his first months of working for SADA.

During his tenure at SADA he faced many challenges and approached all of them in a very professional and informed manner. Some of these faced included milk prices, water and property rights, the environment, "right to farm", irrigation, Murray Darling Basin Plan and water licences, drought and the devastation that this caused to all dairy farmers, electricity reliability and costs, education and training and animal health and BJD. This is just a short list of issues that faced SADA during Ken's time although these issues still continue to be part of a dairy farmer's life. Many of them are things that Ken could influence but there were obviously things that he couldn't either such as drought but he did try to contact the appropriate authorities to try to make things easier for dairy farmers.



He is a kind and caring man and always thought it important to thank people for the assistance that they gave him and this not only included government and industry but their staff, dairy farmers and SADA's supporters such as Wesfarmers Insurance.

He was also willing to go the extra mile as was seen at one of the DIAA's Dairy Awards Dinner when a volunteer was needed to go on stage and "help" the entertainer. He was asked to channel the energy from the room by wearing a shower cap and manually winding an egg beater he was holding to his forehead!! He certainly didn't take himself too seriously that night!

In more recent years Ken was heavily involved with the introduction and release of an association branded milk – SADA Fresh. This brand has continued to go from strength to strength with proceeds from the sale of each product supporting projects aimed at securing the future of SA dairy farmers. Since Ken retired from SADA in 2015 he has been working for the SADA Fresh Dairy Industry Fund ensuring that this money goes towards projects that would be most beneficial to the dairy industry as a whole.

All in all, Ken Lyons has contributed a considerable amount to the dairy industry and will continue to do so while he can.

## No joy on the Horizon in Russia



*Ruski Da - Aussie Nyet*

Recently SADA representatives had an opportunity to catch up with a representative of Australia to the Russian Government. In a gathering, which was subject to the Chatham House Rule, hosted by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, SADA was able to ask questions regarding the opportunities for Australian Milk to enter the Russian market place and the likelihood of sanctions being lifted.

The tit for tat sanction battle between the west and Russia, of which Australia is a part, does not look like ending any time soon. The closure of the Russian market was part of the perfect storm that hit global and domestic milk prices in the last couple of years.

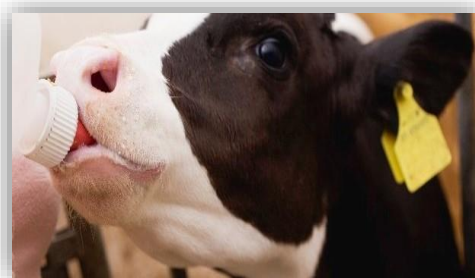
The prognosis does not remain good going into the future with no light at the end of the tunnel and it is unlikely that there will be a thawing of the sanctions in the foreseeable future.

## Feeding waste milk and anti-biotic laced milk to calves – no gain from substantial risk

Dairy producers feed a variety of liquid feeds to young calves after the initial colostrum. These feeds include whole milk, surplus colostrum, transition milk, waste or discard milk, and milk replacer. Waste or discard milk cannot be sold for human consumption, because it comes from cows treated with antibiotics for mastitis or other illnesses.

Feeding waste milk to calves may cause infection to spread from your herd to your calves, for example Johnes's disease, BVD, Staph and E. coli. Performance of calves may suffer as waste milk may not be as nutritious as calf milk replacer and may vary in nutritional composition throughout the year.

Also, changing the calves between waste calf and milk replacer will unsettle the gut and lead to scour. If waste milk contains antibiotics, resistance to antibiotics can develop in the calves. Moreover, there will be a pronounced negative effect on the calf's gut bacterial levels including those bacteria beneficial to the calf. Some



research on the use of waste milk measured the number of viable bacteria and probable antibiotic residues in waste milk fed to calves. The number of bacteria for waste milk was significantly higher than for either calf milk replacer or colostrum. Streptococcus sp. and Enterobacteriaceae were predominantly the bacteria identified. Both Staphylococcus and E. coli were also common. When the waste milk was tested for antibiotic residues, 63% were positive for beta-lactams or tetracycline.

Waste milk can contain a high number of bacteria that may be pathogenic to cattle and also to humans. Research shows that antibiotic-containing milk was unpalatable and rejection rates were high in calves. Growth rates of the calves were poorer than those of calves that were fed calf milk replacer. Also, faecal E. coli were monitored for antibiotic resistance and were higher from calves fed antibiotic-containing milk. Research suggests that the high numbers of bacteria in waste milk may contribute to disease risk. In addition, microbial load will increase further if waste milk is allowed to sit at room temperature for periods of time, for example between milkings.

## Show time

The Royal Adelaide Show is upon us again with the gates open from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of September.

As an industry, it is again an opportunity for us to showcase our industry and demonstrate what it is we do and how we do it. This tradition goes back 168 years in South Australia and remains one of the highlights on South Australian calendar.

The ten-day event remains one of the highlights for Adelaide residents and our Do Dairy onesies will be on display again demonstrating the magnificent contribution that the rural sector makes in this great state.



*Photograph courtesy of the Stock Journal*

The primary industries sector still employs one out of five South Australians and makes an enormous contribution to the gross state product each and every year.

### Show BBQ

The Show BBQ this year will take place in the usual place behind the cow sheds on Tuesday 5 September from 6.00pm. So please join us for a snag or two and the opportunity to catch up with SADA staff and Wesfarmers representatives.

## Show Tickets

We have a small number of show tickets for members available from the SADA Office, so if you would like a couple please either phone Jen on 8293 2399 or email [sada@sada.asn.au](mailto:sada@sada.asn.au)

## Action plan under development

SADA is currently working with many industry players in developing an industry Action Plan that will be circulated for comment shortly. There will be a number of events in the near future in your area to discuss the draft plan.

The plan is about galvanising the mindset of all who are in the dairy chain. The chain is the producer, the processor, the wholesaler, the retailer and exporters, each of which have a part to play in the process of getting milk from grass to glass or from paddock to plate. Historically it has been too easy to segregate the dairy supply chain into its component parts with each component taking an insular position. In difficult times that has meant that the

relationship between producers and processors for example, has been eroded at the expense of the supply product overall. An Action Plan is a vehicle by which all parts of the chain have a mind and a care about what they can do to improve the image and the performance of the dairy product in the journey from the paddock to the plate. Industries that galvanise their focus on the end result are businesses that thrive over time.

For those reasons, the plan will be the product of consultation and input from all sectors in the supply chain. It will be a document that needs to be owned by the industry it serves and will be a touch stone for representative organisations, such as SADA, that seek to advocate for the industry in front of legislators, ministers, governments, decision makers and others who have influence in the industry. If consistent messages are coming from industry to those who can have an effect on industry then positive outcomes will be there for all to benefit. In short the industry that owns shared goals is an industry with a shared future.

## **An opportunity to have input on Training**

On Friday the 18 August 2017, the Hon Susan Close MP Minister for Higher Education and Skills and the Hon Geoff Brock MP Minister for Regional Development issued a statement inviting regional input on training issues.

Regional communities are invited to have their say on skills, training and jobs needs. Employers, job seekers, training providers, and community organisations are also invited to have their say on skills, training and jobs needs in regional South Australia. It is important that the dairy industry has input.

The South Australian Government is undertaking a stakeholder engagement process to better understand and respond to industry demand and individual need for jobs and skills in non-metropolitan regions. People are invited to answer a survey, which will help identify challenges and opportunities in each region. The survey will help inform 10 major workshops being held across regional South Australia through September and October.

The major workshops will help develop responses and a Workforce Development Plan for each region, based on the feedback from stakeholders during this initial engagement phase. To join the discussion, complete the survey, and find out more about the workshops visit [www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/jobsandskills](http://www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/jobsandskills)

### **Background**

South Australia's regions strengthen the foundations of the state and contribute an estimated \$25.5 billion each year to our economy. This engagement on jobs and skills is part of WorkReady, Government's skills, training and employment strategy.

Speaking in Adelaide, Higher Education and Skills Minister Susan Close said,

"I encourage local people and communities to join in this regional engagement on jobs and skills, as involving local people and experts will enable the community and stakeholders to own and drive solutions.

"Our regions are vitally important to our state's economy, and we want to hear new and different perspectives and work together to address skills, training and employment challenges, and development new opportunities.

"By helping us to better understand the needs of the different job seekers and businesses in regional South Australia, local communities can assist us to meet those needs.

"We want people in regions to have access to training, skill development and job opportunities tailored to their needs. Equally, we want businesses to be able to recruit people who are work ready, with the skills needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock, added,

"South Australia's regions inspire and offer incredible opportunities for jobs, skills and training growth across the state. However, we also know of the challenges our regional communities face.

“This year’s Regional Summit explored the jobs and skills needs of regional communities, and the initiatives that are already in place to support them.

“This regional engagement, with a focus on jobs and skills, will build on that knowledge, and I urge every regional South Australian to get involved in this process.”

## **National Farmers’ Federation: South Australia returns to fold**

*NATALIE KOTSIOS, The Weekly Times*

*August 16, 2017 11:30pm*

STATE farming organisations could be eyeing off South Australia’s farming lobby model, as the state prepares to return to the National Farmers’ Federation fold.

Primary Producers SA has announced its intention to join the NFF — the first time SA’s farmers will have a link to the national farm lobby in a decade.

PPSA executive chairman Rob Kerin said the group had been aiming to join the NFF since its formation, which came after the South Australian Farmers Federation dissolved five years ago.

It comes as the NFF looks to form closer ties with horticulture representative groups, including AusVeg and Voice of Horticulture, and while it’s in the middle of its own restructure.

Mr Kerin said some NFF members had already asked PPSA about its structure, which is “different to the rest of Australia but it seems to be working for us”.

The old Farmers Federation was dissolved in 2013, and the PPSA was created.

It boasts five commodity groups as members — Grain Producers SA, Livestock SA, SA Dairyfarmers’ Association, Horticulture Coalition of SA and Wine Grape Council of SA — rather than individuals joining the organisation directly.

“If it’s a grains issue, for example, we do not interfere unless we’re asked to, but we come together on everything that’s cross-commodity,” Mr Kerin said.

The group could then send one person to lobby governments on their behalf to put across all their points of view, even where one commodity disagreed with another, he said.

“It’s a very different model but we based that on why other organisations have lost groups or lost members. We’ve structured that out,” Mr Kerin said.

The Murray Darling Basin and the shortage of agricultural workers are among the issues on which South Australian farmers want their say as NFF members.

“When the NFF considers policies around the Murray-Darling Basin, we think we need to be there for that, a lot of our irrigators want that,” Mr Kerin said.

“It’s also getting really tough to get people to work in regional Australia and there are a lot of federal policy issues around that.”

## And then there's dairy tough...

Hats off to Dairy Farmer Barry Clarke (Fleurieu Milk) of the Myponga – Sellicks football club who has run on for his 643<sup>rd</sup> senior game, equaling the state's record for the most senior games ever played.



Barry started in the late 1970's and confessed to ABC radio that he was never too quick before a game but after a game he's a whole lot slower now.

Well done Barry from all of us at SADA.

## Applications OPEN for \$10,000 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism

*The JB Fairfax Award encourages and supports a young university student who is passionate about pursuing a career as a rural or regional journalist upon graduation. This Award is an outstanding opportunity for a budding journalist to gain a diverse range of practical experience at the coalface of rural and regional reporting, with three relevant internships that will provide a launch pad to a career telling the rich stories from country Australia.*

*The Award includes **a \$10,000 cash scholarship** along with the following suite of internships providing practical work experience:*

- RAS Media Team at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Fairfax Agricultural Media at The Land Newspaper
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in their Brisbane newsroom

*The RAS Foundation administers this award on behalf of John B Fairfax.*

*For any enquiries please contact **Cecilia Logan** Program Manager | RAS Foundation*

*T: +61 2 9704 1226*

*W: [www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation.htm](http://www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation.htm)*

# FOR SALE

Gerard Pastoral is a 100% Indigenous owned business situated at Gerard, via Berri in the Riverland. The elders have started a project growing irrigated hay to provide jobs and economic activity for local indigenous people in the Riverland. By supporting us by purchasing hay, your members will be assisting this project.

We have available the following large quantities

### Lucerne

Large rolls	5ft x 4ft approx. 390 Kg	Price \$275.00 per tonne (for truckloads)
Small Squares	850mm x 400mm x 300mm 25-30kg	Price \$10.00 per bale (for truckloads)

### Oaten hay

Large Rolls	5ft x 4ft approx. 390kg	Price \$150.00 per tonne (for truckloads)
Small squares	850mm x 400mm x 300mm 25-30kg	Price \$8.00 per bale (for truckloads)

### Sorghum hay

Large Rolls	5ft x 4ft approx. 390kg	Price \$150.00 per tonne (for truckloads)
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All hay is Irrigated. Feed tests are available

Delivery can be arranged anywhere

**Please call Colin on 0418 615099**

## Dairy Fund Update

The re-appointment of Rick Hinge to the position of Wellbeing co-ordinator with DairySA has been welcomed by the South Australian dairy industry.

The role – supporting the wellbeing in the South Australian dairy community – continues the role established following the 2016 claw back with funds from Dairy Australia and the South Australian Government. There is now commitment by industry bodies DairySA and the South Australian Dairy Industry Fund who have provided matching funding to this area, which began as a pilot twelve month ago.



According to the South Australian Dairy Industry Fund Executive Officer Ken Lyons, the Wellbeing Co-ordinator role is a positive outcome for the SA dairy community.

“Over the past year, Rick has been instrumental in supporting the SA dairy community, the DairySA team and the Board, with his focus on health and wellbeing” Mr Lyons said.

“Linked with the Tactics for Tight Times program and aligned with support from the South Australian Dairyfarmers’ Association, meant individuals, families and businesses have directly benefited though personalized, focused and constructive outcomes,” he added.

DairySA’s Chair Michael Connor has welcomed the support of the SA Dairy Industry Fund, which will allow the roles’ positive impact over the previous twelve months to continue to build.

“Whilst this project was specifically designed to assist people during challenging times, it will also provide them with the opportunity to increase their skills and resilience strategies in the areas of mental health and wellbeing for the future,” Mr Connor said.

“Through Rick’s support, this project builds resilience, support networks and services within the industry which all contribute to creating a stronger dairy community over time,” he said.

A fifth-generation farmer from Mundulla, Rick has previously worked with the Drought Assistance program and has been an Ambassador for Beyond Blue for the past ten years. Rick has a strong commitment to listening to people and connecting them with tailored wellbeing support and referral services.

“Rick provides a friendly confidential ear for those in the dairy community that need it most,” said Mr Connor.

Rick can be contacted on 0429 225 144.



# Insurance for dairy farmers

With WFI Rural Plan you can tailor an insurance package to meet your needs as a dairy farmer. It can also be extended to include a range of domestic insurances, all in one integrated package. For more information about WFI Rural Plan contact your local WFI Area Manager.

**Call 1300 934 934 or visit [wfi.com.au](http://wfi.com.au)**

To see if our products are right for you, always consider the PDS from the product issuer, WFI (ABN 24 000 036 279 AFSL 241461).

**Good people to know.**

